

Message Text

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R 142003Z DEC 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION NATO
INFO USCINCEUR
CINCLANT
USLOSACLANT
USDELMC
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 244780

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: MCAP, NATO
SUBJECT: LORAN A AND C - FUTURE OPERATIONS

REFS: A. USNATO 3190
B. SACLANT 102137Z, APRIL 73
C. ECJ3-0 18730 DATED NOVEMBER 73
D. JCS 6927 DATED 10 MARCH 73

1. RE PARAS 2A AND 2B OF REF A: BY REF B, SACLANT HAS
DECLARED THAT LORAN C IS NOT A NATO MILITARY REQUIREMENT.

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LORAN A FACILITIES COLOCATED WITH LORAN C ARE IDENTIFIED

IN THE MASTER NAVIGATION PLAN, SM-525-73. THE FUTURE OF EACH LORAN A COLOCATED SITE WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED SEPARATELY. EVENTUAL DISPOSITION OF NATO LORAN A FACILITIES IS A MATTER FOR RESOLUTION BY NATO. WHEN NATO CEASES TO HAVE A VALID MILITARY REQUIREMENT FOR NATO LORAN A, ALL PHYSICAL FACILITIES BELONGING TO LORAN A SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR DELETION FROM NATO INVENTORY.

2. RE PARA 4 OF REF. A: WE AGREE WITH PROPOSAL THAT RESIDUAL VALUE OF ALL LORAN A SITES SHOULD BE DETERMINED, IN VIEW OF POSSIBLE CONTINUING NATIONAL MILITARY OR CIVILIAN USE. THIS IS A TASK WHICH SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN BY NATO.

3. REF C RECOMMENDS AGAINST PROPOSED INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT FOR THE LORAN C MEDITERRANEAN CHAIN BECAUSE OF SECURITY RESTRAINTS, BUT INDICATES THAT EUCOM WOULD INITIATE ACTION IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO PROPOSE INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT FOR THE EUROPEAN CHAIN. REF D INDICATES THAT INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT OF LORAN C MEDITERRANEAN CHAIN SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE INVESTIGATED AND THAT SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS WOULD NOT PRECLUDE SUCH SUPPORT. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THIS GUIDANCE WILL BE REITERATED AND AMPLIFIED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

4. THE CURRENT JCS MASTER NAVIGATION PLAN, SM-525-73 OF NOVEMBER 1973 PROVIDES FOR NO FURTHER US MILITARY USE OF LORAN A AFTER DECEMBER 31, 1974. HOWEVER, THE ENTIRE QUESTION OF LORAN A REMAINS UNDER ACTIVE DISCUSSION. THE USAF IS EXPECTED TO RECLAMA THE END CY 1974 SCHEDULED CLOSURE OF LORAN A FACILITIES. IN ADDITION, WE UNDERSTAND US COMMERCIAL AIRLINES ARE PLEADING FOR A MINIMUM TWO-YEAR DELAY IN THE COMMENCEMENT OF A PHASE-DOWN OF LORAN A, TO PERMIT TIME FOR SELECTION OF OPTIMUM FOLLOW-ON NAVIGATION SYSTEM. RU2H

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